467 government, and a new one, the Central League of Finnish Trade Unions (Suomen Ammattiyhdistysten Keskusliitto, abbreviated to SAK), theoretically independent of all political parties, was established.

• 441 Simultaneously with the workers, the employers began to organize, and in 1917 individual branches were gathered under the Central Federation of Finnish Employers (Suomen Työnantajain Keskusliitto, STK). Its most recent membership was 2,374, as compared to a total of 227,762 workers.

468 Employers, however, were reluctant to enter into collective agreements, for they considered the trade unions to be too much under political influence. But since the war years a noteworthy change has occurred, and in 1944 the Central Federation of Finnish Employers and the Central